

9/747476

Refine Search

Search Results -

Terms	Documents
(compar\$ with (item\$ or product or goods) with database) and (purchas\$ or buy\$ or recommend\$) and @pd<=20001222	11

Database:

US Pre-Grant Publication Full-Text Database
 US Patents Full-Text Database
 US OCR Full-Text Database
 EPO Abstracts Database
 JPO Abstracts Database
 Derwent World Patents Index
 IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletins

Search:

L7

Refine Search

Recall Text

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Search History

DATE: Sunday, September 12, 2004 [Printable Copy](#) [Create Case](#)

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 result set

DB=EPAB,JPAB,DWPI,TDBD; THES=ASSIGNEE; PLUR=YES; OP=OR

L7 (compar\$ with (item\$ or product or goods) with database) and (purchas\$ or buy\$ or recommend\$) and @pd<=20001222

11 L7

DB=USPT; THES=ASSIGNEE; PLUR=YES; OP=OR

L6 L5 and (medical\$ or radiolo\$)

2 L6

L5 L4 and (compar\$ with (item\$ or product or goods) with database)

17 L5

L4 L3 and (purchas\$ or buy\$ or recommend\$)

90 L4

L3 L2 and @ad<=20001222

95 L3

L2 L1 and (comparison with (item\$ or product or goods))

100 L2

L1 705/26,27.ccls.

1179 L1

END OF SEARCH HISTORY

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L7: Entry 1 of 11

File: EPAB

Nov 13, 1996

PUB-NO: EP000742524A2

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: EP 742524 A2

TITLE: System and method for mining generalized association rules in databases

PUBN-DATE: November 13, 1996

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME

COUNTRY

AGRAWAL, RAKESH

US

SRIKANT, RAMAKRISHNAN

US

ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:

NAME

COUNTRY

IBM

US

APPL-NO: EP96302827

APPL-DATE: April 23, 1996

PRIORITY-DATA: US43679495A (May 8, 1995)

INT-CL (IPC): G06 F 17/30; G06 F 17/60

EUR-CL (EPC): G06F017/60

ABSTRACT:

CHG DATE=19990617 STATUS=O> A system and method for discovering consumer purchasing tendencies includes a computer-implemented program which identifies consumer transaction itemsets that are stored in a database and which appear in the database a user-defined minimum number of times, referred to as minimum support. The itemsets contain items that are characterized by a hierarchical taxonomy. Then, the system discovers association rules, potentially across different levels of the taxonomy, in the itemsets by comparing the number of times each of the large itemsets appears in the database to the number of times particular subsets of the itemset appear in the database. When the relationship exceeds a predetermined minimum confidence value, the system outputs a generalized association rule which is representative of purchasing tendencies of consumers. The set of generalized association rules can be pruned of uninteresting rules, i.e., association rules which do not occur at a frequency that is significantly different than what is expected based upon the frequency of occurrence of the rule's ancestors.

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L7: Entry 2 of 11

File: EPAB

Oct 2, 1996

PUB-NO: EP000735497A2

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: EP 735497 A2

TITLE: System and method for quickly mining association rules in databases

PUBN-DATE: October 2, 1996

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME

COUNTRY

AGRAWAL, RAKESH

US

SRIKANT, RAMAKRISHNAN

US

ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:

NAME

COUNTRY

IBM

US

APPL-NO: EP96301917

APPL-DATE: March 20, 1996

PRIORITY-DATA: US41500695A (March 31, 1995)

INT-CL (IPC): G06 F 17/30; G06 F 17/60

EUR-CL (EPC): G06F017/60

ABSTRACT:

A system and method for discovering consumer purchasing tendencies includes a computer-implemented program which identifies consumer transaction itemsets that are stored in a database and which appear in the database a user-defined minimum number of times, referred to as minimum support. Then, the system discovers association rules in the itemsets by comparing the ratio of the number of times each of the large itemsets appears in the database to the number of times particular subsets of the itemset appear in the database. When the ratio exceeds a predetermined minimum confidence value, the system outputs an association rule which is representative of purchasing tendencies of consumers.

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L7: Entry 3 of 11

File: EPAB

Apr 25, 1996

PUB-NO: WO009612243A1

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: WO 9612243 A1

TITLE: SHELF PRICE LABEL AND PRODUCT PLACEMENT VERIFICATION METHOD AND APPARATUS

PUBN-DATE: April 25, 1996

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME

COUNTRY

GUPTA, OM P

RICKETSON, ROBERT C

ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:

NAME

COUNTRY

DIGICOMP RESEARCH CORP

US

APPL-NO: US09414753

APPL-DATE: December 21, 1994

PRIORITY-DATA: US32490294A (October 18, 1994)

INT-CL (IPC): G06 K 7/10

EUR-CL (EPC): G06K017/00; G06K007/10

ABSTRACT:

CHG DATE=19990617 STATUS=O>A price verification method and apparatus for retail stores using shelf labels (19) that have an extended bar code (18) containing the item price or price expiration indicia and the item number. A remote unit (10) scans the item number and price or price expiration indicia, uses the item number to look up the item in a database, then compares the shelf price or price expiration indicia to the database. If the price is no longer valid, a new shelf label (11) is printed immediately. The UPC or other bar code on the product itself is scanned and compared to the shelf price label to confirm product placement. Another embodiment provides for a portable scanner with which a shopper can total purchases as they are selected in order to verify checkout prices.

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L7: Entry 4 of 11

File: DWPI

Nov 29, 2000

DERWENT-ACC-NO: 2001-083173

DERWENT-WEEK: 200110

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TITLE: Electronic point of sale system has till units with a touch screen display showing illustrations of products for comparison with a purchased item and to process a transaction involving a selected displayed item

INVENTOR: ARROWSMITH, D; OLDRIDGE, G

PATENT-ASSIGNEE: M & O BUSINESS SYSTEMS LTD (MOBUN)

PRIORITY-DATA: 1999GB-0012324 (May 26, 1999)

Search Selected

Search ALL

Clear

PATENT-FAMILY:

PUB-NO	PUB-DATE	LANGUAGE	PAGES	MAIN-IPC
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>GB 2350458 A</u>	November 29, 2000		028	G06K007/01

APPLICATION-DATA:

PUB-NO	APPL-DATE	APPL-NO	DESCRIPTOR
GB 2350458A	May 26, 1999	1999GB-0012324	

INT-CL (IPC): G06 K 7/01

ABSTRACTED-PUB-NO: GB 2350458A

BASIC-ABSTRACT:

NOVELTY - An EPOS terminal accesses a product database and displays illustrations of products for a user to compare with purchased products. In the event the scanner fails to read a product barcode the user selects the product from amongst those displayed and the database provides the appropriate price information so the terminal can add the product to those purchased by the user. Terminals are connected to a server which provides the product database.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION - An INDEPENDENT CLAIM is included for a method of processing transactions involving goods.

USE - In EPOS terminals.

ADVANTAGE - Avoids the need to search for price information for items whose barcode will not scan.

ABSTRACTED-PUB-NO: GB 2350458A

EQUIVALENT-ABSTRACTS:

CHOSEN-DRAWING: Dwg.0/14

DERWENT-CLASS: T04 T05

EPI-CODES: T04-A03B1; T05-L01A; T05-L01D;

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L7: Entry 5 of 11

File: DWPI

Jul 27, 2000

DERWENT-ACC-NO: 2000-686424

DERWENT-WEEK: 200067

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TITLE: Searchable database for use in on-line comparison shopping system via internet, includes attribute and value tables which are used to specify target search item

INVENTOR: CASSIDY, P; EVANS, J ; HILL, B ; HUNTER, M ; PAPA, J ; VROOME, K

PATENT-ASSIGNEE: CASSIDY P (CASSI)

PRIORITY-DATA: 1999US-0234348 (January 20, 1999)

Search Selected

Search ALL

Clear

PATENT-FAMILY:

PUB-NO	PUB-DATE	LANGUAGE	PAGES	MAIN-IPC
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>WO 200043850 A2</u>	July 27, 2000	E	138	G06F000/00
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>AU 200032115 A</u>	August 7, 2000		000	G06F000/00

DESIGNATED-STATES: AE AL AM AT AU AZ BA BB BG BR BY CA CH CN CU CZ DE DK EE ES FI GB GD GE GH GM HR HU ID IL IN IS JP KE KG KP KR KZ LC LK LR LS LT LU LV MD MG MK MN MW MX NO NZ PL PT RO RU SD SE SG SI SK SL TJ TM TR TT UA UG VN YU ZA ZW AT BE CH CY DE DK EA ES FI FR GB GH GM GR IE IT KE LS LU MC MW NL OA PT SD SE SL SZ TZ UG ZW

APPLICATION-DATA:

PUB-NO	APPL-DATE	APPL-NO	DESCRIPTOR
WO 200043850A2	January 20, 2000	2000WO-US01401	
AU 200032115A	January 20, 2000	2000AU-0032115	
AU 200032115A		WO 200043850	Based on

INT-CL (IPC): G06 F 0/00

ABSTRACTED-PUB-NO: WO 200043850A

BASIC-ABSTRACT:

NOVELTY - The searchable database includes a number of tables such as attributes table, value table, for target search items. The tables are constructed and arranged so that selection of values for one or more target search item attributes yields an attribute value construct specifying a particular target search items and precluding intermediate result.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION - INDEPENDENT CLAIMS are also included for the following:

(a) on-line comparison shopping system;

(b) method of qualifying product data for inclusion in a database

USE - For use in internet based on-line comparison shopping system.

ADVANTAGE - Enables consumers to view information in a readily assimilated format, such as a grid or matrix format that may be proprietary to the shopping site.

DESCRIPTION OF DRAWING(S) - The figure shows the schematic view of the on-line purchase and sale system for conducting transactions.

ABSTRACTED-PUB-NO: WO 200043850A
EQUIVALENT-ABSTRACTS:

CHOSEN-DRAWING: Dwg.55/72

DERWENT-CLASS: T01 T05

EPI-CODES: T01-J05A1; T01-J05B3; T01-J05B4P; T05-L02;

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L7: Entry 6 of 11

File: DWPI

May 15, 1998

DERWENT-ACC-NO: 1998-338336

DERWENT-WEEK: 199830

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TITLE: Commercial transaction method using virtual space - involves comparing 3-D data of goods selected from catalogue database of computer for store with virtual space in computer

PATENT-ASSIGNEE: OIMATSU SANGYO YG (OIMAN)

PRIORITY-DATA: 1996JP-0273391 (October 16, 1996)

Search Selected

Search ALL

Clear

PATENT-FAMILY:

PUB-NO	PUB-DATE	LANGUAGE	PAGES	MAIN-IPC
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>JP 10124574 A</u>	May 15, 1998		014	G06F017/60

APPLICATION-DATA:

PUB-NO	APPL-DATE	APPL-NO	DESCRIPTOR
JP 10124574A	October 16, 1996	1996JP-0273391	

INT-CL (IPC): G06 F 17/60

ABSTRACTED-PUB-NO: JP 10124574A

BASIC-ABSTRACT:

The method involves storing individual database concerning with possession article of a buyer or 3-D data of the body in a computer (1) for buyer. A catalogue database concerning with 3-D data of the goods of a store is stored in a computer (6). A specific possession article or 3-D data of the body is then selected from the individual database of the computer for buyer. The 3-D data of goods is selected from catalogue database of computer for store.

The selected goods is compared to the virtual space in the computer. The compatibility quality, conformity of selected possession article, the goods and body for purchase is then judged individually.

ADVANTAGE - Judges compatibility or conformity of possession article. Offers inexpensive goods to user effectively. Helps user for purchasing high quality goods.

ABSTRACTED-PUB-NO: JP 10124574A

EQUIVALENT-ABSTRACTS:

CHOSEN-DRAWING: Dwg. 4/26

DERWENT-CLASS: T01

EPI-CODES: T01-J05A; T01-J05B4P; T01-J10C4;

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File: DWPI

Mar 5, 1998

DERWENT-ACC-NO: 1998-179647

DERWENT-WEEK: 199939

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TITLE: Receiving, storing and providing geometrically descriptive data of e.g. textiles and metals - in which supplier of geometrically describable raw materials remotely enters data items for sale into computer, for access by potential purchaser

INVENTOR: DANIAL, J

PATENT-ASSIGNEE: DANIAL J (DANII)

PRIORITY-DATA: 1996US-0697630 (August 28, 1996)

Search Selected

Search ALL

Clear

PATENT-FAMILY:

	PUB-NO	PUB-DATE	LANGUAGE	PAGES	MAIN-IPC
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>WO 9809245 A1</u>	March 5, 1998	E	044	G06F153/00
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>US 5940806 A</u>	August 17, 1999		000	G06F017/60
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>AU 9741488 A</u>	March 19, 1998		000	G06F153/00

DESIGNATED-STATES: AL AM AT AU AZ BA BB BG BR BY CA CH CN CU CZ DE DK EE ES FI GB GE GH HU IL IS JP KE KG KP KR KZ LC LK LR LS LT LU LV MD MG MK MN MW MX NO NZ PL PT RO RU SD SE SG SI SK SL TJ TM TR TT UA UG UZ VN YU ZW AT BE CH DE DK EA ES FI FR GB GH GR IE IT KE LS LU MC MW NL OA PT SD SE SZ UG ZW

APPLICATION-DATA:

PUB-NO	APPL-DATE	APPL-NO	DESCRIPTOR
WO 9809245A1	August 27, 1997	1997WO-US14150	
US 5940806A	August 28, 1996	1996US-0697630	
AU 9741488A	August 27, 1997	1997AU-0041488	
AU 9741488A		WO 9809245	Based on

INT-CL (IPC): G06 F 17/60; G06 F 153/00

ABSTRACTED-PUB-NO: US 5940806A

BASIC-ABSTRACT:

The method involves using a computer (16) for providing a list of data items corresponding geometrically to materials based upon a profile specified by a user, by storing data items in a database (18). A computer (16) is coupled to a communications link (14) and each data item includes geometrically descriptive

terms and trading parameters identifying characteristics of an item offered for sale by an advertiser (10).

A profile is generated by a user which includes identifying characteristics of an item sought for purchase by the user. The profile identified by the user is compared to each data item stored in the database (18) and data items are identified which match the profile.

USE - Providing list of data items corresponding to geometrically describable raw materials e.g. metals and textiles, based on request profile specified by information client.

ADVANTAGE - Able to correlate weight and measure units provided by supplier.

ABSTRACTED-PUB-NO: WO 9809245A
EQUIVALENT-ABSTRACTS:

The method involves using a computer (16) for providing a list of data items corresponding geometrically to materials based upon a profile specified by a user, by storing data items in a database (18). A computer (16) is coupled to a communications link (14) and each data item includes geometrically descriptive terms and trading parameters identifying characteristics of an item offered for sale by an advertiser (10).

A profile is generated by a user which includes identifying characteristics of an item sought for purchase by the user. The profile identified by the user is compared to each data item stored in the database (18) and data items are identified which match the profile.

USE - Providing list of data items corresponding to geometrically describable raw materials e.g. metals and textiles, based on request profile specified by information client.

ADVANTAGE - Able to correlate weight and measure units provided by supplier.

CHOSEN-DRAWING: Dwg.1/7

DERWENT-CLASS: T01
EPI-CODES: T01-J05A2; T01-J05B4P;

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L7: Entry 8 of 11

File: DWPI

Nov 13, 1996

DERWENT-ACC-NO: 1996-499506

DERWENT-WEEK: 200161

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TITLE: Mining generalised association rules in databases - in which generalised association rules between significant transactions that are recorded in database are determined

INVENTOR: AGRAWAL, R; SRIKANT, R

PATENT-ASSIGNEE: INT BUSINESS MACHINES CORP (IBMC), IBM CORP (IBMC)

PRIORITY-DATA: 1995US-0436794 (May 8, 1995)

Search Selected

Search ALL

Clear

PATENT-FAMILY:

	PUB-NO	PUB-DATE	LANGUAGE	PAGES	MAIN-IPC
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>EP 742524 A2</u>	November 13, 1996	E	022	G06F017/30
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>DE 69614309 E</u>	September 13, 2001		000	G06F009/44
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>JP 08314981 A</u>	November 29, 1996		027	G06F017/30
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>US 5615341 A</u>	March 25, 1997		022	G06F019/00
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>EP 742524 B1</u>	August 8, 2001	E	000	G06F009/44
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>JP 3195233 B2</u>	August 6, 2001		027	G06F017/30

DESIGNATED-STATES: DE FR GB DE FR GB

CITED-DOCUMENTS: No-SR. Pub

APPLICATION-DATA:

PUB-NO	APPL-DATE	APPL-NO	DESCRIPTOR
EP 742524A2	April 23, 1996	1996EP-0302827	
DE 69614309E	April 23, 1996	1996DE-0614309	
DE 69614309E	April 23, 1996	1996EP-0302827	
DE 69614309E		EP 742524	Based on
JP 08314981A	April 10, 1996	1996JP-0088573	
US 5615341A	May 8, 1995	1995US-0436794	
EP 742524B1	April 23, 1996	1996EP-0302827	
JP 3195233B2	April 10, 1996	1996JP-0088573	
JP 3195233B2		JP 8314981	Previous Publ.

INT-CL (IPC): G06 F 9/44; G06 F 17/00; G06 F 17/30; G06 F 17/60; G06 F 19/00

RELATED-ACC-NO: 1996-435889;1999-034564

ABSTRACTED-PUB-NO: EP 742524A

BASIC-ABSTRACT:

The method for determining consumer purchasing tendencies involves identifying consumer transaction item-sets that are stored in a database and which appear in the database a user- defined minimum number of times. The item-sets contain items that are characterised by a hierarchical taxonomy. Association rules across different levels of the taxonomy are discovered in the item-sets, by comparing the number of times each of the large item-sets appears in the database, to the number of times particular sub-sets of the item-set appear in the database.

When the relationship exceeds a predetermined minimum confidence value, the system outputs a generalised association rule which represents purchasing tendencies of consumers. The set of generalised association rules can be cleared of uninteresting rules, i.e association rules which do not occur at a frequency that is significantly different of occurrence of the rule's ancestors.

USE - Identifying association rules in item-sets with hierarchical taxonomy defining descendant and ancestor relationships between items, on items of item-sets, in mining large database of sales transactions.

ABSTRACTED-PUB-NO: EP 742524B

EQUIVALENT-ABSTRACTS:

The method for determining consumer purchasing tendencies involves identifying consumer transaction item-sets that are stored in a database and which appear in the database a user- defined minimum number of times. The item-sets contain items that are characterised by a hierarchical taxonomy. Association rules across different levels of the taxonomy are discovered in the item-sets, by comparing the number of times each of the large item-sets appears in the database, to the number of times particular sub-sets of the item-set appear in the database.

When the relationship exceeds a predetermined minimum confidence value, the system outputs a generalised association rule which represents purchasing tendencies of consumers. The set of generalised association rules can be cleared of uninteresting rules, i.e association rules which do not occur at a frequency that is significantly different of occurrence of the rule's ancestors.

USE - Identifying association rules in item-sets with hierarchical taxonomy defining descendant and ancestor relationships between items, on items of item-sets, in mining large database of sales transactions.

US 5615341A

A computer program device comprising:

a computer program storage device readable by a digital processing apparatus; and

a program means on the program storage device and including instructions executable by the digital processing apparatus for performing method steps for identifying association rules in itemsets with a hierarchical taxonomy on items of the itemsets, the taxonomy defining descendant and ancestor relationships between the items, the method steps comprising:

entering an itemset into a set of large itemsets when the number of times the itemset is present in a database of transactions establishes a support value that exceeds a predefined minimum support value;

for at least some of the itemsets in the set of large itemsets, determining the number of times selected subsets of the itemsets appear in transactions in the database; and

(d) outputting an association rule when the number of times a selected subset appears in the database bears a predetermined relationship to the number of times the associated itemset appears in the database and thereby satisfies a minimum confidence constraint.

CHOSEN-DRAWING: Dwg.1/15 Dwg.15/15

DERWENT-CLASS: T01

EPI-CODES: T01-J05B3; T01-J16A;

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File: DWPI

Oct 2, 1996

DERWENT-ACC-NO: 1996-435889

DERWENT-WEEK: 199903

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TITLE: Identifying association rules in consumer purchasing transaction item sets in transactions from database - comparing ratio of number of times each large item set appears in database to number of times particular subsets of item set appear in database

INVENTOR: AGRAWAL, R; SRIKANT, R

PATENT-ASSIGNEE: INT BUSINESS MACHINES CORP (IBMC), IBM CORP (IBMC)

PRIORITY-DATA: 1995US-0415006 (March 31, 1995)

Search Selected

Search ALL

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PATENT-FAMILY:

PUB-NO	PUB-DATE	LANGUAGE	PAGES	MAIN-IPC
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>EP 735497 A2</u>	October 2, 1996	E	018	G06F017/30
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>JP 08287106 A</u>	November 1, 1996		020	G06F017/30
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>US 5794209 A</u>	August 11, 1998		000	G06F017/60

DESIGNATED-STATES: DE FR GB

APPLICATION-DATA:

PUB-NO	APPL-DATE	APPL-NO	DESCRIPTOR
EP 735497A2	March 20, 1996	1996EP-0301917	
JP 08287106A	March 7, 1996	1996JP-0050017	
US 5794209A	March 31, 1995	1995US-0415006	

INT-CL (IPC): G06 F 17/30; G06 F 17/60; G06 F 19/00; G07 G 1/12

RELATED-ACC-NO: 1996-499506;1999-034564

ABSTRACTED-PUB-NO: EP 735497A

BASIC-ABSTRACT:

An item set is entered into a set of large item sets when the number of items the item set is present in the database exceeds a predefined minimum support value. Item sets are concatenated in the set of large item sets in accordance with a predetermined concatenation regime to generate a next set of candidate large item sets. Each item set is compared in the next set of large item sets only when the number of times the candidate large item set is present in the database is greater

than the minimum support value.

The number of times selected subsets of the item sets appear in the database is determined. An association rule is output when the ratio of the number of times a selected subset appears in the database to the number of times the associated item set appears in the database exceeds a predetermined minimum confidence value and satisfies a minimum confidence constraint.

ADVANTAGE - Quickly mines large database of sales transactions.

ABSTRACTED-PUB-NO: US 5794209A
EQUIVALENT-ABSTRACTS:

An item set is entered into a set of large item sets when the number of items the item set is present in the database exceeds a predefined minimum support value. Item sets are concatenated in the set of large item sets in accordance with a predetermined concatenation regime to generate a next set of candidate large item sets. Each item set is compared in the next set of large item sets only when the number of times the candidate large item set is present in the database is greater than the minimum support value.

The number of times selected subsets of the item sets appear in the database is determined. An association rule is output when the ratio of the number of times a selected subset appears in the database to the number of times the associated item set appears in the database exceeds a predetermined minimum confidence value and satisfies a minimum confidence constraint.

ADVANTAGE - Quickly mines large database of sales transactions.

CHOSEN-DRAWING: Dwg.1/3

DERWENT-CLASS: T01
EPI-CODES: T01-J05A1; T01-J05B3;

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File: DWPI

Oct 2, 1996

DERWENT-ACC-NO: 1996-435889

DERWENT-WEEK: 199903

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TITLE: Identifying association rules in consumer purchasing transaction item sets in transactions from database - comparing ratio of number of times each large item set appears in database to number of times particular subsets of item set appear in database

INVENTOR: AGRAWAL, R; SRIKANT, R

PATENT-ASSIGNEE: INT BUSINESS MACHINES CORP (IBMC), IBM CORP (IBMC)

PRIORITY-DATA: 1995US-0415006 (March 31, 1995)

Search Selected

Search ALL

Clear

PATENT-FAMILY:

	PUB-NO	PUB-DATE	LANGUAGE	PAGES	MAIN-IPC
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>EP 735497 A2</u>	October 2, 1996	E	018	G06F017/30
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>JP 08287106 A</u>	November 1, 1996		020	G06F017/30
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>US 5794209 A</u>	August 11, 1998		000	G06F017/60

DESIGNATED-STATES: DE FR GB

APPLICATION-DATA:

PUB-NO	APPL-DATE	APPL-NO	DESCRIPTOR
EP 735497A2	March 20, 1996	1996EP-0301917	
JP 08287106A	March 7, 1996	1996JP-0050017	
US 5794209A	March 31, 1995	1995US-0415006	

INT-CL (IPC): G06 F 17/30; G06 F 17/60; G06 F 19/00; G07 G 1/12

RELATED-ACC-NO: 1996-499506;1999-034564

ABSTRACTED-PUB-NO: EP 735497A

BASIC-ABSTRACT:

An item set is entered into a set of large item sets when the number of items the item set is present in the database exceeds a predefined minimum support value. Item sets are concatenated in the set of large item sets in accordance with a predetermined concatenation regime to generate a next set of candidate large item sets. Each item set is compared in the next set of large item sets only when the number of times the candidate large item set is present in the database is greater

than the minimum support value.

The number of times selected subsets of the item sets appear in the database is determined. An association rule is output when the ratio of the number of times a selected subset appears in the database to the number of times the associated item set appears in the database exceeds a predetermined minimum confidence value and satisfies a minimum confidence constraint.

ADVANTAGE - Quickly mines large database of sales transactions.

ABSTRACTED-PUB-NO: US 5794209A
EQUIVALENT-ABSTRACTS:

An item set is entered into a set of large item sets when the number of items the item set is present in the database exceeds a predefined minimum support value. Item sets are concatenated in the set of large item sets in accordance with a predetermined concatenation regime to generate a next set of candidate large item sets. Each item set is compared in the next set of large item sets only when the number of times the candidate large item set is present in the database is greater than the minimum support value.

The number of times selected subsets of the item sets appear in the database is determined. An association rule is output when the ratio of the number of times a selected subset appears in the database to the number of times the associated item set appears in the database exceeds a predetermined minimum confidence value and satisfies a minimum confidence constraint.

ADVANTAGE - Quickly mines large database of sales transactions.

CHOSEN-DRAWING: Dwg.1/3

DERWENT-CLASS: T01
EPI-CODES: T01-J05A1; T01-J05B3;

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L7: Entry 11 of 11

File: DWPI

Jan 17, 1995

DERWENT-ACC-NO: 1995-066476

DERWENT-WEEK: 199614

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TITLE: Bar=coded shelf price verification for retail stores - scanning shelf label, comparing shelf price with checkout scanner price database, and providing price error to operator if shelf price from scanned label is not equal to checkout scanner price

INVENTOR: GUPTA, O P

PATENT-ASSIGNEE: DIGICOMP RES CORP (DIGIN)

PRIORITY-DATA: 1993US-0058426 (May 7, 1993)

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PATENT-FAMILY:

PUB-NO	PUB-DATE	LANGUAGE	PAGES	MAIN-IPC
<input type="checkbox"/> US 5382779 A	January 17, 1995	.	013	G06K015/00

APPLICATION-DATA:

PUB-NO	APPL-DATE	APPL-NO	DESCRIPTOR
US 5382779A	May 7, 1993	1993US-0058426	

INT-CL (IPC): [G06 K 15/00](#)

RELATED-ACC-NO: 1996-128688

ABSTRACTED-PUB-NO: US 5382779A

BASIC-ABSTRACT:

Shelf price verification involves using shelf labels provided with an extended bar-code having the item number and price of the item. A remote unit scans the item number and price, and uses the item number to look up the item in a database which is identical to the store check-out scanner database, and compares the shelf price to the database price. If they are not the same, a new shelf label can be printed immediately.

USE/ADVANTAGE - Easily adapted to allow government inspections of stores for shelf price accuracy. Provides for portable totaliser with which shopper can total purchases as they are selected, enabling shopper to check scanner at checkout register.

ABSTRACTED-PUB-NO: US 5382779A

EQUIVALENT-ABSTRACTS:

CHOSEN-DRAWING: Dwg.1/7

DERWENT-CLASS: T01 T04

EPI-CODES: T01-C06; T01-J05A; T04-C02;

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Quick definitions
 (*computed tomography*)

noun: a method of examining body organs by scanning them with X rays and using a computer to construct a series of cross-sectional scans along a single axis

Encyclopedia article
 (*Computed axial tomography*)

CAT apparatus in a hospital
Computed axial tomography (CAT), computer-assisted tomography, computed tomography, CT, or body section roentgenography is the process of using digital processing to generate a three-dimensional image of the internals of an object from a series of

➤ **Medicine** (10 matching dictionaries)

8. [computed tomography](#) : Stedman's Online Medical Dictionary, 27th Edition [[home](#), [info](#)]
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Medical Glossary [[home](#), [info](#)]

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two-dimensional x-ray axial images. ([continued at Wikipedia](#))

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18. [Computed tomography \(CT\)](#) : Discovering Nutrition: Interactive Glossary [[home](#), [info](#)]
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computed tomography

<investigation, procedure, radiology> A special radiographic technique that uses a computer to assimilate multiple X-ray images into a 2 dimensional cross-sectional image.

This can reveal many soft tissue structures not shown by conventional radiography. Scans may also be dynamic in which a movement of a dye is tracked. Cuts may be 5 or 10 mm apart or, in some instances even further apart. A special dye material may be injected into the patients vein prior to the scan to help differentiate abnormal tissue and vasculature.

The machine rotates 180° around the patients body, sending out a pencil-thin X-ray beam at 160 different points. Crystals positioned at the opposite points of the beam pick up and record the absorption rates of the varying thicknesses of tissue and bone. These data are then relayed to a computer that turns the information into a picture on a screen. Using the same dosage of radiation as that of the conventional X-ray machine, an entire slice of the body is made visible with about 100 times more clarity.

The scanner was invented in 1972 by the British electronics engineer Godfrey N. Hounsfield and was in general use by 1979.

Synonym: computerised axial tomography.

Acronym: CT

(15 Nov 1997)

Previous: computational biology, computational chemistry, computed perimetry, computed radiography

Next: computer, computer-aided design, computer-assisted instruction

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Quick definitions (*Mri*)

noun: the use of nuclear magnetic resonance of protons to produce proton density images

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23. MRI : AIDS 101 [[home](#), [info](#)]
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25. MRI : Prostate Cancer Interactive Glossary [[home](#), [info](#)]
26. MRI : Glossary of Lymphoma Terms [[home](#), [info](#)]
27. MRI : MEDLINE plus Illustrated Medical Encyclopedia [[home](#), [info](#)]
28. MRI : MS RELATED WORDS [[home](#), [info](#)]
29. MRI : Dictionary of Cancer Terms [[home](#), [info](#)]

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❖ **Science** (1 matching dictionary)

32. MRI : COMPENDIUM OF ENVIRONMENTAL ACRONYMS (CEA) [[home](#), [info](#)]

❖ **Tech** (3 matching dictionaries)

33. MRI : GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS, CARTOGRAPHY, AND REMOTE SENSING [[home](#), [info](#)]
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MRI -->

Magnetic Resonance Imaging

A special imaging technique used to image internal stuctures of the body, particularly the soft tissues. An MRI image is often superior to a normal X-ray image.

It uses the influence of a large magnet to polarize hydrogen atoms in the tissues and then monitors the summation of the spinning energies within living cells.

Images are very clear and are particularly good for soft tissue, brain and spinal cord, joints and abdomen. These scans may be used for detecting some cancers or for following their progress.

Acronym: MRI

(11 Nov 1997)

Previous: magnetic pumping, magnetic reconnection, magnetic resonance angiography

Next: magnetic resonance imaging, cine, magnetic resonance scanning

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computed radiography

Radiography using a solid-state imaging device, such as a photostimulable phosphorplate, and recovering, enhancing, and displaying the image using a digital computer.

(05 Mar 2000)

Previous: [compulsive personality disorder](#), [computational biology](#), [computational chemistry](#), [computed perimetry](#)

Next: [computed tomography](#), [computer](#), [computer-aided design](#)

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image

<[microscopy](#)> A representation of an [object](#) produced by [means](#) of [radiation](#) usually with a [lens](#) or [mirror system](#).

(05 Aug 1998)

Previous: [ilmenite](#), [ilmenium](#), [ILO](#), [iloprost](#), [Ilosvay](#), [Ilosvay reagent](#), [ilvaite](#), [im](#), [ima](#)

Next: [image amplifier](#), [image cytometry](#), [image enhancement](#), [image field](#)

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L6: Entry 2 of 2

File: USPT

Oct 16, 2001

US-PAT-NO: 6304854

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6304854 B1

TITLE: System and method for providing a comparable branded product based on a current branded product for non-comparison shopped products

DATE-ISSUED: October 16, 2001

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Harris; Michael T.	Demarest	NJ		

ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY	TYPE CODE
Dunhill Holdings, Corp.	New York	NY			02

APPL-NO: 09/ 393228 [PALM]

DATE FILED: September 9, 1999

INT-CL: [07] G06 F 17/60

US-CL-ISSUED: 705/27; 705/26

US-CL-CURRENT: 705/27; 705/26

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 705/26, 705/27, 707/3, 707/5, 707/6

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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PAT-NO	ISSUE-DATE	PATENTEE-NAME	US-CL
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<input type="checkbox"/> <u>3581072</u>	May 1971	Nymeyer	
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>3637989</u>	January 1972	Howard et al.	
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5873069</u>	February 1999	Reuhl et al.	
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>6128600</u>	October 2000	Imamura et al.	705/27
	<u>6173210</u>	January 2001	Bjornson et al.	700/99



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11-7472	January 1999	JP	
WO 98/02835	January 1998	WO	

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Tweney, D., "Shopping Agents Help Consumers Find the Best Deals," vol. 19, No. 49, p. 98, Dec. 1997.*

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The Ostomy Assessment Inventory: A Data Gathering Process to Enhance Appropriate Pouching System Selection--vol. 44 No. 2 Feb. 1998.

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WWW.CADABRA.COM Nov. 23, 1999: Cadabra Comparison Shopping. Research, compare and buy your computer and electronic. (2 pages) Health and beauty Nov. 23, 1999 (3 pages).

WWW.ACSES.COM Sep. 13, 1999: Aceses, the ultimate comparison shopping Engine. Compare prices from online shops. (3 pages).

WWW.COMPARISONSHOPPING.NET Sep. 14, 1999: Compare prices on Books, cameras, mortgages and more! (3 pages).

WWW.ABCGUIDES.COM Sep. 14, 1999: Credit card rates guide (5 pages).

WWW.TELEWORTH.COM Sep. 14, 1999 Money by utilizing Tele-Rate (1page), Entrepreneur magazine (1 page), In the news (1 page).

WWW.MORE.COM Sep. 13, 1999: Stockings (2 pages), Condoms (2 pages).

WWW.LIFESHOPPER.COM Sep. 13, 1999: Term life insurance through Intelleguotes LifeShopper.

WWW.INTELEQUOTE.COM Sep. 13, 1999: Term life insurance information (2 pages), life insurance quotes-on line calculators-Lowest rate Highest coverage (3 pages).

ART-UNIT: 215

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Millin; Vincent

ASSISTANT-EXAMINER: Rosen; Nicholas David

ATTY-AGENT-FIRM: Dreier & Baritz LLP

ABSTRACT:

A method and apparatus for inputting an end-user's current brand name and, in return, providing at least one comparable branded product to the end-user where the category of branded products are non-comparison shopped products. In one embodiment, the method and apparatus is utilized in the area of medical devices including such markets as patients with intestinal stomas, incontinence wound care needs and diabetes.

25 Claims, 7 Drawing figures

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File: USPT

Oct 16, 2001

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6304854 B1

TITLE: System and method for providing a comparable branded product based on a current branded product for non-comparison shopped products

Abstract Text (1):

A method and apparatus for inputting an end-user's current brand name and, in return, providing at least one comparable branded product to the end-user where the category of branded products are non-comparison shopped products. In one embodiment, the method and apparatus is utilized in the area of medical devices including such markets as patients with intestinal stomas, incontinence wound care needs and diabetes.

Application Filing Date (1):

19990909

Brief Summary Text (2):

The present invention relates to a system for providing a comparison of comparable branded products. More particularly, the invention relates to a method and apparatus for providing at least one comparable branded product to an end-user, wherein the category of products are non-comparison shopped products.

Brief Summary Text (4):

There are numerous categories of products that are sold by brand name. Typically, for certain categories of products, each manufacturer markets its branded products as separate from other manufacturers. Moreover, for these same type of products, a distributor that offers for sale the same or similar product category by different manufacturers will typically have its catalogue organized by manufacturer and not by product category. In this way, a consumer is unable to compare different brand names from different manufacturers in order to purchase alternative products. Examples of such markets include patients with intestinal stomas, incontinence, wound care needs, diabetes; and for patients requiring home respiratory therapy, respiratory access and tracheotomy care, home intravenous therapy, home occupational, physical and/or rehabilitation therapy, pediatric products, chiropractic and/or orthopedic equipment, braces and supports. Other examples of such markets include the category of perfumes.

Brief Summary Text (7):

Because of these conditions, there exist numerous products that are used with or in conjunction with a stoma including pouches, ostomy systems, sealants and skin barriers. For example, Hollister offers for sale a line of branded drainable pouches named "First Choice" while Coloplast offers for sale its own line of branded drainable pouches named "Assura". However, prior to the present invention, an end-user of one of these branded products would not and could not directly compare these branded products. Accordingly, as an example, an end-user who was presently buying a specific type of "Assura" drainable pouch would not be able to comparison shop and thus, compare to a specific type of a "First Choice" product. Moreover, in many cases, end-users were unaware that comparable branded products even existed and thus, the end-user may have had no expectation that he/she could

comparison shop.

Brief Summary Text (8):

In addition, manufacturers of a specific branded product have been motivated in the past to assure that its branded product can not be comparison shopped with another manufacturer's branded product. Manufacturers employ numerous methods to achieve this result including, for example: (a) establishing a branded name (i.e. a label for the specific product); (b) establishing an internal proprietary coding system; (c) publishing catalogues and other sales information that avoids any detailed analysis of the product; and (d) providing insufficient details of their product so that distributors are required to publish catalogues that are compiled according to each manufacturer and not according to product category. All of these techniques have one main purpose--to prevent the manufacturer's own branded product from being compared to other potentially competitive products. In this way, an end-user who has previously bought certain branded product from one manufacturer, will not be likely to switch to another manufacturer's branded product. Thus, the end-user will continue to purchase from the same manufacturer.

Brief Summary Text (9):

In contrast, there exist product categories that have a history of comparison shopping. For example, one category that has produced a multitude of products and has become a highly competitive comparison shopping environment is consumer appliances and electronics. Each type of product such as a television set is typically available from several different manufacturers, and each manufacturer typically produces several models of the same type of product. For example, an electronic distributor will typically display 20 inch television sets from different manufacturers and several models from the same manufacturer in a side-by-side comparison. As such, for these product categories, there exists an expectation on behalf of the end-user that there are comparable branded products.

Brief Summary Text (10):

Despite these known categories of products involving comparison shopping, there still is needed a system that automatically compares branded products (that were previously only identified according to their own brand manufacturer and not comparison shopped) for the categories of non-comparison shopped products and provides an accurate and precise comparison, responsive to changing industry products, that also provides point of sale assistance to consumers with branded products and price comparisons among manufacturers products.

Brief Summary Text (13):

Moreover, for purposes of this present invention, the term "non-comparison shopped product" means a type of product that, without technical assistance, an end-user of the product is not capable of determining at least one comparable product. The term "end-user" means the person who is using the product. For example, for a pouch to be used with an intestinal stoma, the end-user is the patient. The term "technical assistance" means a person having information concerning the specific branded product that is known only to those of ordinary skill in the art of the particular product category. The following are examples of "non-comparison shopped products" (but, are not limited to the following examples): (a) for patients with intestinal stomas, pouches, ostomy systems, sealants, and skin barriers; (b) for patients with incontinence, urinary catheters; (c) for patients with wound care needs (e.g. care of chronic wounds such as venous stasis ulcers and decubitus ulcer), skin barrier dressings and hydrogel dressings; and (d) for patients requiring respiratory access and tracheostomy care, tracheostomy tubes. In a specific example, numerous non-comparison shopped products are offered for sale in the catalogue, "The Complete Home Care and Ostomy Suppliers Catalog," distributed by Edgemark Surgical Inc. In that catalogue, ostomy products are generally categorized according to manufacturer (e.g. ConvaTec, Hollister, Smith & Nephew, Inc., Coloplast, Nu-Hope, Cymed/Bard) and not according to product category (eg. pouches, ostomy systems, sealants, skin barriers).

Brief Summary Text (14):

The present invention provides an automated system and apparatus that provides an end-user with the capability to compare and display comparable branded products for a plurality of products and also provides an end-user at the point of sale with comparisons of comparable branded products among the same manufacturer and other manufacturers. Specifically, the present invention relates to an automated system for providing at least one comparable branded product to an end-user, wherein the end-user's current branded product is a non-comparison shopped product, wherein the method comprises:

Brief Summary Text (22):

In overall operation in one embodiment, the system receives a specific branded product from a specific manufacturer, compares this specific branded product with the database's comparable branded products, and automatically selects one or more comparable branded products or combination of comparable products. Manufacturer's branded products are input on a regular basis (e.g. daily, hourly, or other frequencies are possible) as necessary.

Detailed Description Text (9):

FIG. 4 illustrates a flow diagram representing one embodiment where a customer (i.e. end-user) is presently purchasing a specific branded product and, the present invention provides the end-user with one or more comparable branded products. Customer enters brand name product (e.g. the product customer is presently purchasing) (step 1010). Customer enters brand name product into terminal (step 1020). The customer information is transmitted to the central controller (step 1030). Information concerning each branded product is inputted into the central controller on a periodic basis (e.g. hourly, daily, weekly or monthly) and updated as necessary (step 1045). In one embodiment, each input branded product is analyzed by computer means and/or by an individual who is specifically trained to analyze and describe the branded products in specific product categories. For example, in one embodiment, in the area of stoma products, an individual, who is trained in this area (e.g. an enterostomal therapist), inspects the branded product and inputs the product characteristics and specifications of the branded product. In another embodiment, a computer program is written to "search" the internet for branded products in a specific category and for any characteristics of the branded products. The central controller then compares the current end-user's brand name product to the database containing other brand name products (including specific product characteristics) and determines one or more comparable products (step 1040). At least one selected comparable brand name product is transmitted to the customer (step 1050). In addition, the customer can then select the comparable brand name product (step 1060). Finally, the customer completes the transaction by paying for comparable brand product (step 1070).

Detailed Description Text (30):

FIG. 5 illustrates a flow diagram representing another embodiment where a survey is used in conjunction with a branded product analysis. In this embodiment, the customer (i.e. end-user) completes the survey (step 1110). Customer enters the survey into terminal (step 1120). The customer information is transmitted to the central controller (step 1130). Information concerning each branded product and responses to survey data corresponding to branded products is inputted into the central controller on a periodic basis and updated as necessary including branded products that meet the criteria of various questions of the survey (step 1145). The central controller then compares the survey data to the database and determines one or more product(s) that meet the acceptable criteria of the survey (step 1140). One or more selected comparable branded product(s) are transmitted to the customer (step 1150). In addition, the customer can then select one or more of the comparable brand name products (step 1160). And, the customer completes the transaction by paying for comparable brand product (step 1170).

Detailed Description Text (32):

FIG. 6 is one embodiment of the brand name database. The database system generally comprises a statistical module that uses: (a) industry and statistical experience of a specific branded product; (b) public database that relates to the specific product (e.g. manufacturers catalogues, internet sites); and (c) experience obtained by inspecting specific branded product. The statistical module creates a library database of branded products. The brand name database combines specific information relating to the end-user with the library database to generate one or more comparable branded products.

Detailed Description Text (36):

In a further embodiment, the present invention may be used for providing at least one comparable branded women's or men's perfume to an end-user. For example, a woman would input her current brand name. The brand name database perfume product would contain detailed information concerning the precise chemical make-up of that and other brand name women's perfumes. In one embodiment, to produce the brand name product database, a sample of each specific branded perfume would be analyzed by gas chromatographes, infrared spectrometer, thermal chromatograph and/or mass spectrometer, or any combination of these devices. An electronic "fingerprint" (eg. identification) would be produced for each sample. In another example, a device called a "Cyrano 2000" instrument may also be used to identify the electronic "fingerprint" of each sample. See e.g., "A Nose For Business," MIT's Technology Review (July/August 1999), pp. 62-7. The central controller would compare the current brand name product to the database and determine one or more women's brand name(s) that correspond(s) to the electronic "fingerprint" of the current brand name. The central controller would be programmed to allow for established deviations when comparing the "fingerprint" of the current brand name to "fingerprints" in the database. One or more comparable brand name perfumes would be transmitted to the end-user. In yet another embodiment, the central controller would select two or more specific branded name perfumes to be combined by the end-user in order to produce a comparable smell of the current brand name perfume.

Detailed Description Text (38):

A system and method for providing a comparable branded product based on a current branded product for non-comparison shopped products have been described herein. As previously stated, detailed embodiments of the present invention are disclosed herein; however, it is to be understood that the disclosed embodiments are merely exemplary of the invention that may be embodied in various forms. It will be appreciated that many modifications and other variations that will be appreciated by those skilled in the art are within the intended scope of this invention as claimed below without department from the teachings, spirit and intended scope of the invention.

Current US Original Classification (1):

705/27

Current US Cross Reference Classification (1):

705/26

Other Reference Publication (3):

LeSueur, S., "Telezoo Zips Through Purchasing Process," Washington Technology, vol. 14, No. 8, p. 36, Jul. 1999.*

Other Reference Publication (5):

Ostomy Wound Management, The 1998 O/MM Buyers Guide--vol. 44 No. 7 Jul. 1998.

Other Reference Publication (6):

WWW.CADABRA.COM Nov. 23, 1999: Cadabra Comparison Shopping.Research, compare and buy your computer and electronic. (2 pages) Health and beauty Nov. 23, 1999 (3 pages).

CLAIMS:

1. A computer implemented method of identifying at least one comparable branded non-standardized medical device product to an end-user's selected branded non-standardized medical device product, wherein the method comprises:

(a) entering product data relating to the end-user's selected branded non-standardized medical device product into an entering device, wherein the product data includes a branded name of the end-user's selected branded non-standardized medical device product and wherein the entering step comprises generating an output corresponding to the product data;

(b) querying a database using a query based upon the output corresponding to the product data, wherein the database contains a set of data relating to branded non-standardized medical device products and wherein the set of data includes, for each branded non-standardized medical device product contained in the database, information regarding a desired functional result

(c) receiving a query result containing at least one comparable branded non-standardized medical device product, wherein the query result is based upon an existence of a substantial equivalence between the desired functional result of the end-user's selected branded non-standardized medical device product and the desired functional result of at least one comparable branded non-standardized medical device product contained in the query result; and

(d) identifying the at least one comparable branded non-standardized medical device product contained in the query result to the end-user.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the non-standardized medical device products are a category of products for patients with intestinal stomas.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the non-standardized medical device products are a category of products for patients with incontinence.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the non-standardized medical device products are a category of products for patients with wound care needs.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the non-standardized medical device products are a category of products for patients requiring respiratory access and tracheostomy care.

11. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

a payment receiving component configured to receive payment for the comparable branded non-standardized medical device product.

12. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of entering survey data in conjunction with the step of entering product data relating to the end-user's selected branded non-standardized medical device product.

13. An automated system for identifying at least one comparable branded non-standardized medical device product to an end-user's, selected branded non-standardized medical device product, wherein the system comprises:

(a) entering means for entering the product data relating to the end-user's selected branded non-standardized medical device product, wherein the product data includes a branded name of the end-user's selected branded non-standardized medical device product and for generating an output corresponding to the product data;

(b) generating means for receiving said output from said entering means, for querying a database using a query based upon the output corresponding to the product data, wherein the database contains a set of data relating to branded non-standardized medical device products, and for generating a function based on said output and said set of data, wherein the set of data includes, for each branded non-standardized medical device product contained in the database, information regarding a desired functional result;

(c) receiving means for receiving a query result containing at least one comparable branded non-standardized medical device product, wherein the query result is based upon an existence of a substantial equivalence between the desired functional result of the end-user's selected branded non-standardized medical device product and the desired functional result of at least one comparable branded non-standardized medical device product contained in the query result from said generating means; and

(d) transferring means for providing at least one comparable branded non-standardized medical device product to said user.

15. The system of claim 13, wherein the non-standardized medical device products are a category of products for patients with intestinal stomas.

17. The system of claim 13, wherein the non-standardized medical device products are a category of products for patients with incontinence.

19. The system of claim 13, wherein the non-standardized medical device products are a category of products for patients with wound care needs.

21. The system of claim 13, wherein the non-standardized medical device products are a category of products for patients requiring respiratory access and tracheostomy care.

23. A computer implemented method of identifying at least one comparable branded non-standardized medical device product to an end-user using a selected branded non-standardized medical device product, wherein the method comprises:

(a) entering product data relating to the end-user's selected branded non-standardized medical device product into an entering device, wherein the product data includes a branded name of the end-user's selected branded non-standardized medical device product and wherein the entering step comprises generating an output corresponding to the product data;

(b) querying a database using a query based upon the output corresponding to the product data, wherein the database contains a set of data relating to branded non-standardized medical device products and wherein the set of data includes, for each branded non-standardized medical device product contained in the database, information regarding a desired functional result;

(c) receiving a query result containing at least one comparable branded non-standardized medical device product, wherein the query result is based upon an existence of a substantial equivalence between the desired functional result of the end-user's selected branded non-standardized medical device product and the desired functional result of at least one comparable branded non-standardized medical device product contained in the query result;

(d) computing the price of the comparable branded non-standardized medical device product by comparing a set price of the comparable product with a competitor's price for the comparable branded product and re-pricing the comparable branded product; and

(e) identifying the, at least one comparable branded non-standardized medical device product contained in the query result and price to the end-user.

25. A method of identifying at least one comparable branded non-standardized medical device product to an end-user's selected branded non-standardized medical device product, wherein the method comprises:

(a) entering product data relating to the end-user's selected branded non-standardized medical device product into an entering device, wherein the product data includes a branded name of the end-user's selected branded non-standardized medical device product and wherein the entering step comprises generating an output corresponding to the product data;

(b) querying a database using a query based upon the output corresponding to the product data, wherein the database contains a set of data relating to branded non-standardized medical device products and wherein the set of data includes, for each branded non-standardized medical device product contained in the database, information regarding a desired functional result;

(c) receiving a query result containing at least one comparable branded non-standardized medical device product, wherein the query result is based upon an existence of a substantial equivalence between the desired functional result of the end-user's selected branded non-standardized medical device product and the desired functional result of at least one comparable branded non-standardized medical device product contained in the query result; and

(d) identifying the at least one comparable branded non-standardized medical device product contained in the query result to the end-user.

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L6: Entry 1 of 2

File: USPT

Jan 8, 2002

US-PAT-NO: 6338067

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6338067 B1

TITLE: Product/service hierarchy database for market competition and investment analysis

DATE-ISSUED: January 8, 2002

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

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Shum; Steven M.	San Francisco	CA		

ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY	TYPE CODE
Sector Data, LLC.	San Francisco	CA			02

APPL-NO: 09/ 260389 [\[PALM\]](#)

DATE FILED: March 2, 1999

PARENT-CASE:

This application claims benefit of provisional Ser. No. 60,098,777 filed Sep. 1, 1998.

INT-CL: [07] [G06 F 17/30](#)

US-CL-ISSUED: 707/100; 707/10, 707/104.1, 707/513, 705/20, 705/26, 705/30, 705/402, 705/404, 709/201, 709/217, 709/252 , 379/115.01, 345/762

US-CL-CURRENT: [707/100](#); [345/762](#), [379/115.01](#), [705/20](#), [705/26](#), [705/30](#), [705/402](#), [705/404](#), [707/10](#), [707/104.1](#), [709/201](#), [709/217](#), [709/252](#), [715/513](#)

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 717/8, 704/9, 706/55, 707/1-5, 707/100-104, 707/200-205, 707/3, 707/4, 707/10, 707/104.1, 707/513, 705/26-29, 705/34-37, 705/40, 705/20, 705/23, 705/402, 705/30, 705/404, 705/408, 705/410, 709/201, 709/219, 709/213, 709/217, 709/224, 709/250, 709/252

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

☐ Search Selected☐ Search ALL☐ Clear

PAT-NO

ISSUE-DATE

PATENTEE-NAME

US-CL

[4692896](#)

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717/8

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Shvartsman, Alex A., "Dealing with History and Time in a Distributed Enterprise
MAnager", IEEE Network, Nov. 1993, vol. 7, Issue: 6, pp. 32-42.

ART-UNIT: 2172

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Alam; Hosain T.

ASSISTANT-EXAMINER: Alam; Shahid

ATTY-AGENT-FIRM: Glenn; Michael A.

ABSTRACT:

A product hierarchy database organizes company market performance and stock investment information by the products and services produced and offered by each competitor. The companies that produce each product/service are relationally linked to each of their products/services through records. An investment information service includes the product/service hierarchy database and makes it accessible to investor and analyst subscribers through a query system across the Internet. Data entry personnel continually load qualitative and quantitative information about companies and their products/services through a product hierarchy generator connected to the product/service hierarchy database. Subscribers can punch-through to query individual data items, and they can find out what relationships exist between all the important aspects of the companies and the products/services being tracked. The invention also provides for the creation of an index and corresponding index value for every product or service type in the database, which consists of a composite of all companies in a product or service area and whose index value can be measured and compared against any other product or service type index value.

20 Claims, 7 Drawing figures

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L6: Entry 1 of 2

File: USPT

Jan 8, 2002

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6338067 B1

TITLE: Product/service hierarchy database for market competition and investment analysis

Abstract Text (1):

A product hierarchy database organizes company market performance and stock investment information by the products and services produced and offered by each competitor. The companies that produce each product/service are relationally linked to each of their products/services through records. An investment information service includes the product/service hierarchy database and makes it accessible to investor and analyst subscribers through a query system across the Internet. Data entry personnel continually load qualitative and quantitative information about companies and their products/services through a product hierarchy generator connected to the product/service hierarchy database. Subscribers can punch-through to query individual data items, and they can find out what relationships exist between all the important aspects of the companies and the products/services being tracked. The invention also provides for the creation of an index and corresponding index value for every product or service type in the database, which consists of a composite of all companies in a product or service area and whose index value can be measured and compared against any other product or service type index value.

Application Filing Date (1):

19990302

Brief Summary Text (8):

It would be advantageous to provide a product-hierarchy database that organizes accurate comparable industry, sector, sub-sector, and group market performance and stock investment information centered around the products produced and services performed of each company and their true competitors, with each product or service type created as an index. Such product hierarchy should enable the creation of an index for each product or service type which can be valued and measured.

Brief Summary Text (10):

The invention provides a product-hierarchy database that organizes accurate comparable industry, sector, sub-sector, and group market performance and stock investment information centered around the products produced and services performed of each company and their true competitors, with each product or service type created as an index. Such product hierarchy enables the creation of an index for each product or service type which can be valued and measured.

Detailed Description Text (2):

The invention provides a product-hierarchy database that organizes accurate comparable industry, sector, sub-sector, and group market performance and stock investment information centered around the products produced and services performed of each company and their true competitors, with each product or service type created as an index. Such product hierarchy enables the creation of an index for each product or service type which can be valued and measured.

Detailed Description Text (35):

Therefore, system 100 (FIG. 1) provides the ability to display systematically,

search, and compare all companies and peer groups, based upon products manufactured or services performed anywhere within an industry, sector, sub-sector, and group, as well as perform industry, sector, sub-sector, and group by industry, sector, sub-sector, and group comparisons.

Detailed Description Text (38):

Product records can be specialized for particular industries, sectors, sub-sectors, and groups. For example, the company product record for medical device and bio-pharmaceutical companies preferably includes information fields for each product's clinical and regulatory stage, side effects, and prescription indications.

Detailed Description Paragraph Table (1):

TABLE I (Quantitative Information) CO_ID(FK) RECORD_TYPE RECORD_NO year quarter
 derived_data_processed_flag industr_code repno cusip ticker coname split_date
 split_factor currency_code currency_rate fplen fplenscf fptyp fpbegdt fpenddt
 updstatus updstatbs updstatcf restdtis restdtbs restdtcf fisperiod revenue
 interest_income_bank premiums_earned net_investment_income realized_gains_losses
 other_revenue total_revenue cost_of_revenue losses_benefits_adjustments
 amortization_of_policy_costs fuel_expense direct_operating_expenses
 selling_general_admin_expenses depreciation_and_amortization
 research_and_development_interest_expense other_operating_expenses
 unusual_income_expenses interest_expense_bank loan_loss_provision total_expenses
 interest_income_non_operating interest_expense_non_operating
 interest_net_non_operating afudc non_interest_income non_interest_expense
 gain_loss_on_sale_of_assets other_net_income_before_taxes income_taxes
 income_after_taxes minority_interest_is equity_interests_is preferred_dividends
 general_partner_distribution us_gap_adjustment misc_earnings_adjustment
 interest_adjust_primary_eps adj_inc_avail_to_cmn_prim_eps
 primary_eps_excl_xord_items discontinues_operations extraordinary_items
 accounting_change primary_ips_include_xord_items dividends_per_common_share
 primary_average_shares_outstnd full_dilution_adjustment
 fully_diluted_shares_outstnd fd_eps_excl_xord_items fd_eps_include_xord_items
 cash_and_equivalents cash_and_due_bank other_short_term_investments investments
 loans loan_loss_reserves other_interest_earning_assets accounts_receivable
 inventory prepayments_and_advances deferred_policy_acqsn_costs other_current_assets
 total_current_assets long_term_investments utility_plant utility_plant_depreciation
 utility_plant_net property_plant_equipment accum_depreciation_and_amort
 property_plant_equipment_net goodwill_intangibles deferred_charges other_assets
 other_long_term_assets total_assets accounts_payable short_term_debt deposits
 other_interest_bearing_liab policy_liabilities curr_port_ltd_cap_lease_oblig
 other_current_liabilities other_liabilities total_current_liabilities
 long_term_debt capitalized_lease_obligations tota_long_term_debt
 minority_interest_bs deferred_taxes other_long_term_liabilities total_liabilities
 redeemable_preferred preferred_stock common_stock additional_paid_in_capital
 retained_earnings treasury_stock other_equity esop_debt_guarantee
 total_shareholder_equity shares_outstanding_period_end net_income_scf
 depreciation_scf amortization_scf deferred_taxes_indirect other_non_cash_items
 cash_receipts cash_payments cash_taxes_paid cash_interest_paid
 other_operating_cash_flows total_cash_from_operating_act capital_expenditures
 other_investing_cash_flows total_cash_from_investing_act dividends_paid
 purchase_or_sale_of_stock_purchase_and_retirement_debt other_financing_cash_flows
 total_cash_from_financing_act exchange_rate_effects net_change_in_cash cash-
 interest_paid_indirect cash_taxes_paid_indirect depreciation_amortization_scf
 dividend_growth_5yr revenue_growth_5yr earnings_per_share_growth_5yr
 revenue_per_employee no_of_employees avg_square_feet_space sv_gross_profit
 sv_gross_margin sv_selling_gen_admin_percent sv_research_anddev_prcent
 sv_total_expenses sv_oprtng_income sv_oprtin_margin sv_income_before_tax_margin
 sv_tax_rate sv_net_income_mrgn sv_long_term_debt_to_capital
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 sv_quick_ratio sv_oprtng_cash_flow_last_yr sv_roe_trailing_4_quarters

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 sv_forward_pe_ratio sv_price_to_book_value sv_price_to_sales_trailing
 sv_price_to_sales_5fy sv_price_to_oprtng_cash_flow sv_price_to_free_cash_flow
 sv_current_pe_ratio_to_growth sv_forward_pe_ratio_to_growth sv_free_cf_per_share_tr
 sv_free_cf_per_share_lfy sv_price_to_free_cf_tr sv_avg_gross_ppe_per_employee
 sv_avg_gross_ppe_per_sqft sv_debt_to_mkt_cap sv_pct_chng_gross_mrgn_fy
 sv_pct_chng_oprtng_mrgn_fy sv_pct_chng_income_mrgn_fy

Current US Cross Reference Classification (4):
 705/26

CLAIMS:

3. The system of claim 1, further comprising:

means for creation of an index and corresponding index value for every product or
 service type in said database which consists of a composite of all companies in
 that product or service area and whose index value can be measured and compared
 against any other product or service type index value.

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